

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 USIE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 NSC-05 SS-15 DODE-00 /043 W

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8352

UNCLAS OTTAWA 4743

DEPT PASS USIA FOR IOR/M AND IEU

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CA

SUBJ: FRENCH-LANGUAGE PRESS REACTIONS TO AMBASSADOR'S
COMMENTS

1. FRENCH PRESS HAS GENERALLY NOT BEEN OVERLY CRITICAL OF AMBASSADOR'S COMMENTS; OTTAWA'S LE DROIT ON DEC 17 CONCLUDED ITS EDITORIAL BY SAYING "LET US NOT SHOUT OO MUCH AGAINST HIM (THE AMBASSADOR) NOR AGAINST HIS METHODS. AT THE LEAST HE POSES QUESTIONS IN CLEAR TERMS, IT IS NOT A TRUDEAU/FORD MEETING WHICH WILL SETTLE THE QUESTION. IT IS...THE CANADIAN PEOPLE WHO WILL DECIDE".

LEDEVOIR WAS AMBIVALENT STATING IN ONE EDITORIAL THAT "MR. PORTER GETS CARRIED AWAY", AND SAYING THAT HE ADOPTED THE DEPLORABLE ATTITUDE OF SOME OF HIS COMPATRIOTS WHO TREAT CANADA AS A CONQUERED COUNTRY." HOWEVER, ON DECEMBER 18 ANOTHER EDITORIAL ENTITLED "WASHINGTON-OTTAWA WITHOUT PASSION" DID EXPRESS CONCERN ABOUT NOT FACING UP TO PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES." CANADA'S LARGEST FRENCH LANGUGAGE PAPER LA PRESSE HEADLINED ITS MAIN STROY ABOUT THE AFFAIR: "TRUDEAU FINDS THAT US AMBASSADOR WENT TOO FAR". IN AN EDITORIAL ON DECEMBER 17 LA PRESSE WONDERED WHAT WAS HAPPENING AND AHY THE AMBASSADOR HAD CHOSEN THE PRESS
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CHANNEL TO EXPRESS HIS VIEWS. IT ASKED IF "NO OTHER

MEANS WERE AT HIS DISPOSAL?" HOWEVER, IT CONCLUDED
BY SAYING "...WE SHOULD NOT MAKE TOO MUCH OF A
SCENE CANADA HAS NO REASON TO BE INJURIOUS TO THE US.
NEVERTHELESS WE UNDERSTAND THE ANGER OF AMERICAN
BROADCASTERS AND CAN IMAGINE THE PRESSURE THEY
ARE PUTTING ON THEIR REPRESENTATIVES...LET US HOPE THE
MATTER IS CLOSED, ESPECIALLY SINCE PRESIDENT FORD HAS
CLARIFIED THE SITUATION." JOHNSON

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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